

Town of Tiverton



Economic Development Commission

343 Highland Road, Tiverton Rhode Island 02878

MEETING MINUTES

ORGANIZATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE AND TIME: December 12, 2013 @ 6:00PM

LOCATION: TIVERTON TOWN HALL
343 HIGHLAND ROAD
TIVERTON, RI 02878

Chairman Scott Humphrey called the regular meeting of the Tiverton Economic Development Commission to order at 6:00 P.M. Other members present were: Susan Gill, Jonathan Cottrell and Leonard Schmidt. Member Thomas Humphrey was absent. Jay Massa was present on behalf of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce.

Item # 1 Approval of minutes meeting of November, 2013

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cottrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor of the motion.

Item # 2 Discover Newport; Director Evan Smith

Mr. Smith gave a presentation regarding the role of tourism in the State. He noted that a percentage of lodging and meals tax goes directly to the Towns. Mr. Smith also described the trickle-down effect of tourism on the local economy. He stated that the Discover Newport website is available for postings. Discussion ensued.

Item #3 Town meetings update:

Harbor Commission & Recreation Commission / Susan Gill: Ms. Gill stated that RIDOT has started work to widen the boat ramp under the Sakonnet Bridge.

Ms. Gill noted that an application to RIDEM for a grant to fund the proposed soccer complex had been presented to the Town Council by the Recreation Commission. The Town Council had approved the submission of the application, which will be completed by Gary Rose.

Planning Board / Len Schmidt: Mr. Schmidt stated that he had not attended any meetings.

Wastewater Management / Jon Cottrell: Mr. Cottrell noted that RIDEM and CRMC had approved the Wastewater Management Commission's plans, and that the next step was to go to the legislature.

Zoning Board / Thomas Humphrey: Mr. T. Humphrey was not present.

Four Corners Merchant Group / Scott Humphrey & Susan Gill: Ms. Gill noted that she had attended a Historic Preservation Advisory Board meeting regarding Historic District Zoning at Four Corners. The zoning amendment was still pending and GIS mapping was in process.

Town Council / Len Schmidt & Susan Gill: Ms. Gill noted that Mr. Gerlach had updated the Town Council regarding plans for the business forum in February. The Town Council had approved expenditures of up to \$800 to match funds provided by the EDC.

Item #4 RWU Community Partnership / Update: Susan Gill

Ms. Gill stated that the EDC's application had not been selected and that she would follow up on future opportunities.

Item #5 The EDC 12.09 workshop update

Mr. Humphrey noted that the goal of the workshop was to work towards defining the message of the EDC and to describe how Town assets can create revenue dollars.

Item #6 Tiverton Business Forum

This item was already discussed as part of Item #3.

Item #7 Tiverton Comprehensive Plan Committee / Scott Humphrey:

Mr. Humphrey reported that the initial meeting of the group was productive, with the larger committee breaking into four smaller subcommittees focusing on various topics.

Item #8 Tiverton Business Park RFP / Group:

Mr. Humphrey stated that the Park would appear on the January 13 Town Council agenda. Mr. Humphrey stated that he would continue discussions on the future of the park with Marcel Valois of the RIEDC. Interim Town Administrator Nancy Mello and Town Councilor Brett Pelletier would also participate in future discussions.

Item #9 New Business and Economic Development Items and Updates of Interest

- It was noted that the new Dollar General store on Main Road was aiming for a June 1 opening.

Item #9 Next Meeting Schedule, Agenda and Adjournment

The next meeting would be held on January 9, 2014. Mr. Cottrell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Submitted by: Susan Gill Approval Date: January 9, 2013